
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET

Pressurized Container/Compressed Gas Cylinder Disposal

Compressed gas cylinders are pressurized containers used to store gases at or above atmospheric pressure. Compressed gases can cause fires, explosions, oxygen deficient atmospheres, and toxic gas exposures. Therefore, compressed gas cylinders must be properly stored, transported, and used to prevent these injuries and accidents. Please follow these guidelines.

Storage and Transport

- Compressed gas cylinders must always be in an upright position and supported (whether full or empty) in order to prevent tipping. Acceptable methods of supporting include:
 - Wall, bench, or floor-mounted gas cylinder brackets.
 - Storage racks designed for compressed gas cylinders.
 - Chains or belts securely anchored to walls or benches (positioned 3/4 of the way up the tank).
 - Dollies or carts designed for gas cylinders during transportation.
- All cylinders must have a valve protection cap in place when not in use.
- All cylinders must have labels clearly identifying the contents and the owner's contact information.
- For storage in patient care areas, "full and in use" and "empty" oxygen cylinders must be stored in separate racks.
- Separate compressed gases from incompatible materials and conditions (other incompatible materials and gases, sources of heat and ignition, etc.). Incompatible gases should be stored separately using a protective barrier or distance (at least 20 ft apart).
- Gas cylinder storage should be in cool, dry, and well ventilated areas. If there is enough stored gas to create an oxygen deficient or explosive atmosphere, the space shall be equipped with a air monitoring device and alarm.
- Ensure dollies and carts are specifically designed for transporting compressed gas cylinders. All gas cylinders should fit and be properly secured in the cart/dolly.

Using Compressed Gas Cylinders

- Keep compressed gas cylinder valves closed except when the cylinder is being used.
- Check regulators for damage and leaks before using and ensure the regulator valve is shut before its removal.
- Open valves slowly and assure the valve outlet is pointed away from people.
- Compressed gas cylinders should still be secured and supported during use.
- Use appropriate PPE when working with dangerous gases (e.g., wearing a face shield and long-cuffed cryo-gloves when working with cryogenic gases).
- Electronic regulators should not be used for flammable gases (unless approved by EHS).
- All additional compressed gas cylinder storage and use requirements set by OSHA, NFPA, and DOT must be adhered to. Please reference EHS's [Laboratory Safety Manual](#) and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for more details.

Improperly Stored Gas Cylinders:



Properly Stored Gas Cylinders:



Updated 10/2025